Title: Need to take steps to provide relief to people affected by drought conditions in Karnataka - laid.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): In Karnataka out of 176 Talukas in the State, 128 Taluks have been declared drought affected. Due to severity of drought, Khariff crop in 25.08 lakh hectares and Rabi crop in 6.06 lakh hectares have been affected. Further, 18,51,243 agricultural labourers are required to be provided employment under various employment generation schemes. Also, the agricultural crops of 9,05,453 small and marginal Farmers are affected. Due to acute shortage of drinking water 40 villages and 11 towns are being provided with drinking water through transportation.

In view of the prevailing drought situation, the Karnataka Government has submitted a Memorandum for Central Assistance of Rs. 1262.95 crores under drought and 5.47 lakh MT of food grains.

Though the central team for drought had visited the State and submitted its report, till date, there is no response to the memorandum from the Union Government.

The Union Government has released Rs. 226.30 crores under NCCF and Rs. 23.70 crores under CRF advance for 2007-08. The State Government has utilized the entire amount released by Centre and State Government has released Rs. 144 crores from its budget for drought relief.

In view of the above, the State Government has requested for adhoc release of Rs. 300 crores from NCCF and for release of balance food grains as per State Government's request.

I request the Centre to do the needful at the earliest.